

**STATISTICAL YEARBOOK
OF BHUTAN
2000**



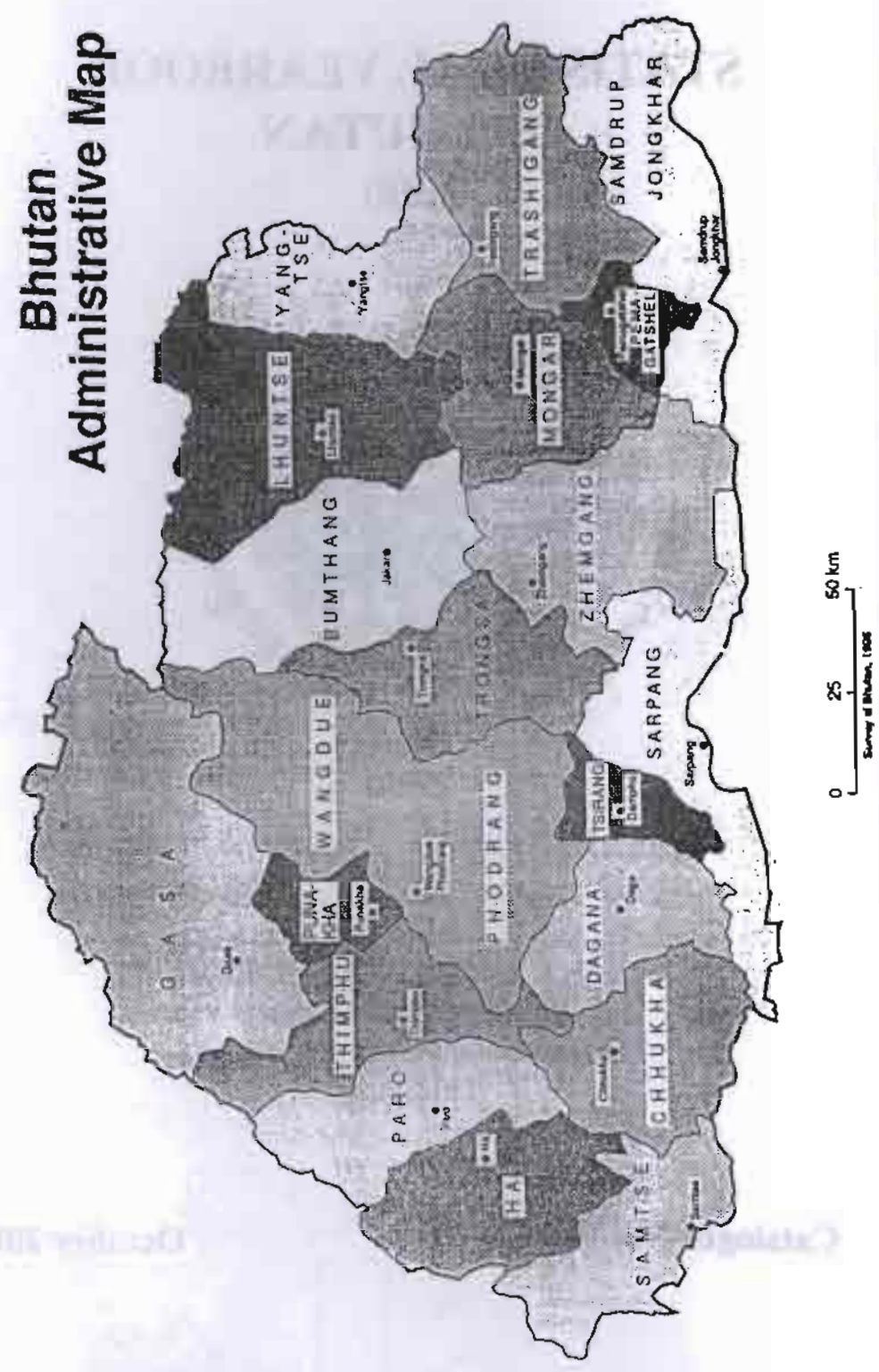
**Central Statistical Organization
Planning Commission
Royal Government of Bhutan
Thimphu**

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PREFACE

Bhutan Administrative Map



Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2000 is the nineteenth in the series of annual statistical publications issued by the Central Statistical Organization, Planning Commission.

The purpose of the publication is to provide a summary of the more important statistics of Bhutan. Statistics have been presented under a number of subject headings corresponding to the major areas of statistical interest. A short introductory text for each chapter provides a brief description of the statistics, how they were obtained and any existing shortcomings. Some of the more interesting features of the Statistics have also been highlighted.

In preparing the publication, attempts have been made to assess the quality of each data source and where appropriate, tables have been footnoted to highlight any shortcomings in the data.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the statistics given in the publication meet acceptable statistical standards. However, it has been necessary to place reliance on existing data collections and it was not always possible to undertake as detailed an assessment of data sources as would have been preferred. This was due to the wide range of data sources used and because detailed background information on many data collections was not always available. Consequently, some shortcomings in the data presented are inevitable, though it is considered that these have been kept to a minimum. Throughout the compilation of the publication, the CSO has maintained close contact with all sectors.

It's our effort to improve the range and quality of statistics available on Bhutan, and are reflected in each of the annual up gradation of the publications.

Central Statistical Organization
Planning Commission
Thimphu

CHAPTER 1: POPULATION

INTRODUCTION

The main source of statistics on population is the population census. Population censuses are undertaken in most countries on a five or ten yearly basis aimed to provide a full count of the population according to a range of characteristics such as demography, health, education and other social aspects. Censuses are useful not only because they provide a range of current population data but also for use as a benchmark for making population estimates in non census years and for population projections. Population censuses were undertaken in Bhutan in 1969 and 1980. The population figures those early Years were large because of the large reflect of migrants from neighboring countries: labor migrants at the instant of large-scale influx construction and Tibetan refugees who settled temporarily for few Years in the country. With the development emphasis changing to human resource development the large migrants moved out and in 1996 the total population was found to be around 600,000. Until the next round of Census, scheduled for 2005 is under taken the estimates are used utilize growth rate from the surveys.

The second major element of population statistics relates to the demography characteristics of the population. The most common source of information on demography is the vital registration system (which usually covers the registration of births and deaths and sometimes marriages and divorces). In Bhutan, the vital registration system does not currently provide the full coverage of births and deaths and it has been necessary to undertake special sample surveys; (the first one in 1984, and second in 1994) to obtain the important demographic information. Statistics presented in this chapter include estimates of current population together with data from 1984 on demographic survey and 1994 National Health Survey. These special surveys carried out at certain intervals of 3 to 5 Years is proposed to provide the changes that are occurring in the population indicators. The population data presented in this chapter is an estimated population using the annual growth rates resulting from the National Demographic Health Surveys. Some of the important demographic Health surveys were carried out to provide basic demographic indicators and these are presented here. The interpretations of demographic indicators are as follows:

CHAPTER 7: TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

INTRODUCTION

About two and half decades back, Bhutan had fragmented transport and communication network. An efficient road system for a landlocked country assumes paramount importance as it plays a crucial role in supporting all development activities and in stimulating domestic and international trade. The first appearance of the motor vehicle was in 1962 and surface transport continues to be the main means of transport. The Bhutan Government Transport service (BCTS) originally entrusted with goods transportation was restructured to concentrate on passenger transport. In 1985 the gradual privatization of the public transport commenced and full privatization of the public transport services was achieved in 1990 with 21 operators managing a fleet of more than 100 buses on 73 routes. The Government in order to promote and see the development of surface transport with emphasis on safety formulated Roads Safety and Transport Act, which became operational since October 1997. In the last 25 years tremendous achievements were made in establishing 3,691 kilometers of roads and several motorable bridges. In the difficult areas where the construction of motorable road has not yet begun, 184 suspension bridges provide the vital transport links. Today the Division of Roads is responsible for the design and planning of roads and in setting standards for quality.

Druk Air, the national airline commenced providing services in February 1983 and commercialized services in 1985. Bhutan established its international air link with Calcutta and today it flies to five destinations in the region. The Division of Civil Aviation was established in 1986 to provide infrastructure and services and to regulate the airline industry. The Civil Aviation Act was enacted in 1990 and the Division of Civil Aviation became the member of ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization), which adheres to internationally accepted standards and practices. The Paro International Airport was inaugurated recently on 10 April 1999 and has taken the air transport sector further ahead in providing the reliable, safe and comfortable travel services.

Within the last two and half decades, telecommunication network has changed from physical wire network to a national digital network. Telecommunication has been accorded priority in Bhutan's development plans. Bhutan's first satellite international link was established in 1990 with the installation of Earth satellite station and an international gateway switch in Thimphu. In September 1993 the telecommunication link between Thimphu and Tsirang was established and in March 1999 all the 20 district headquarters had access to telecommunication services. Within a short period 1992-1999 the number of telephones per 100 people increased from 0.08 to 1.12.

Following the formulation and implementation of Bhutan Postal Act of 1996, Division of Post was incorporated under Bhutan Companies Act. There are 107 postal services where one post office caters to 6,145 Bhutanese people. In 1993, Bhutan post introduced International Express Mail Service and after a year Domestic Express Mail Services and Fax Mail services were introduced. Fax money order service was started in 1996 followed by Post Overnight Courier and Bhutan Post Express Passenger Services in 1997. Within a short period Bhutan Post increased the types of services from 4 to 13.

The recently completed national telecommunication network opened the path to global information network. On 2nd June 1999, the country established the first television network and also started the Internet services. Information and communication technology such as Internet provides access to global information and the days are not far when the services like tele-medicine, distance education, trade and electronic commerce become associated with our every day affairs.

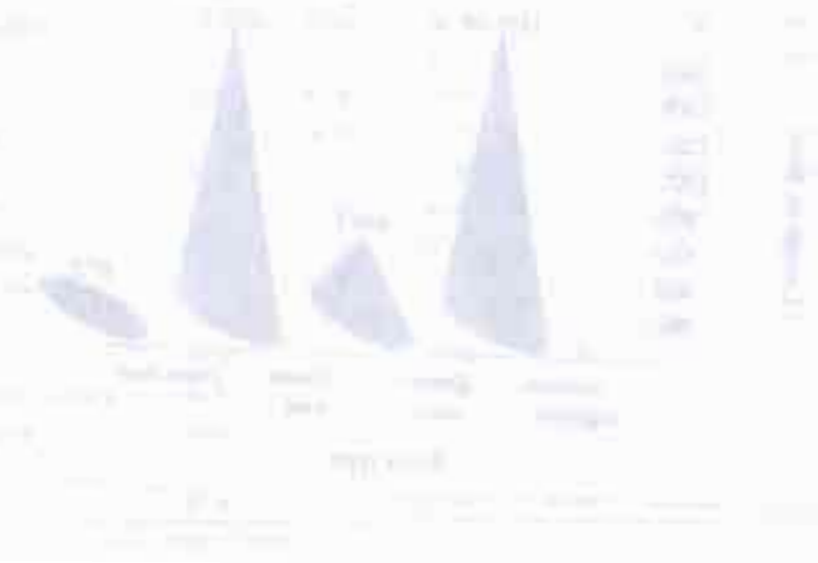


TABLE 7.13: NUMBER OF TELEPHONE TRUNK CALLS BY TYPE, 1995 TO 1999

Type of call	(Thousands)				
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Domestic calls	n.a	1,777	7,092	9,441	4,646
International calls	n.a	508	2,683	2,032	2,968
India	n.a	333	1,067	1,224	2,661
Other	n.a	174	1,840	808	307
All calls	n.a	2,285	9,775	11,473	7,614

Source: Division of Telecommunication, Thimphu

TABLE 7.14: TELECOMMUNICATION TRAFFIC IN MINUTES AND REVENUE EARNINGS, BHUTAN, 1996 TO 2000

Details	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Type of call					
Domestic calls (minutes)	5,369,556	13,593,000	19,833,152	13,936,667	78,161,951
International calls (minutes)	1,288,620	5,561,000	4,063,871	5,935,201	3,472,348
India	1,288,620	4,061,000	3,502,495	3,862	2,827,295
Other countries	n.a	1,500,000	561,376	5,931,339	534,425
Total calls	6,658,176	19,154,000	23,897,023	19,871,868	81,634,299
Revenue earnings (millions Nu.)	123.17	n.a	186.00	198.75	n.a

Source: Division of Telecommunications, Thimphu

TABLE 7.15: NUMBER OF COMMUNICATION FACILITIES, 1994 TO 2000

Postal infrastructure	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
General Post Offices	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Post Offices	56	55	21	18	19	19	19
Branch Post Offices	23	21	64	69
Agency Post Offices	20	25	18	17	17	17	17
Community Mail Offices	69	68
Telegraph or Fax Offices	17	17	17	17	17	18	18
Wireless Stations(a)	52	..	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	45

Note: WT. Stations are merged with Telecommunication Division

W.E.F JULY 1995

(a) Includes 3 stations installed at New Delhi, Dhaka and Kalimpong

Source: Bhutan Post, Thimphu

TABLE 7.16: VOLUME OF POSTAL MAIL TRAFFIC BY DESTINATION, 1995 TO 1999

Type of service	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Domestic	1,414	1,035	10,208	1,316	1,282
International	482	437	800	1,046	1,078
Dispatch	228	197	299	443	401
Receipt	255	240	501	603	677
Total mail items	1,896	1,471	11,008	2,362	2,252

Source: Bhutan Post, Thimphu

TABLE 9.4: NUMBER OF TOURIST ARRIVALS BY PURPOSE OF VISIT, 1996 TO 2000

Purpose	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Tour, holidays and recreation	3,245	4,517	4,860	6,328	6,633
Trekking & mountaineering	1,893	846	1,343	830	926
Total tourists	5,138	5,363	6,203	7,158	7,559

Source: Tourism Authority of Bhutan, Thimphu

TABLE 9.5: NUMBER OF TOURIST ARRIVALS BY MODE OF TRANSPORT, 1996 TO 2000

Mode of transport	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Air	na	4826	5583	5745	6522
Other	na	537	620	1413	1037
Total tourists	5138	5363	6203	7158	7559

Source: Tourism Authority of Bhutan, Thimphu

CHAPTER 10: FOREIGN TRADE AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

INTRODUCTION

Bhutan's economy is closely linked with India, though efforts towards diversification of products and markets are actively pursued. While economy links with other countries are limited, significant amount of aid have been received in recent years and this has enabled substantial increases in imports from third countries. Exports to third countries continue to be very low against higher imports, so reliance has to be placed on inflows of aid for the financing of imports.

Balance of Payments statistics are designed to show the difference between the total payments made to foreign countries and the total receipts from foreign countries. Payments and receipts include imports and exports of merchandise; services and transfers (such as freight and insurance charges); expenditure by travelers; and capital movements (such as loans and investments). The balance between imports and exports is measured by the trade balance. A more comprehensive picture of the balance of payments situations is obtained by including services and transfers to provide a measure of the current account balance.

The balance of payments statements also show how any negative current account balance is financed. In the case of Bhutan this is achieved through foreign aid. Any surplus of foreign aid over and above current account deficits means an increase in the foreign currency reserves of the country. Balance of payments statistics in Bhutan are compiled by the Royal Monetary Authority based on information from its own accounts and those of the Bank Of Bhutan, together with information on imports and exports. Efforts are under way to improve the data on a number of areas.

CHAPTER 13: PLAN OUTLAYS

INTRODUCTION

Development planning in Bhutan can be traced back to the year 1961 when the first Five Year Plan (1961/62 to 1965/66) was drawn up. Initially, a self-contained development secretariat was established to implement the plan. At the time of preparation of the third plan in 1971, the Planning Commission was established headed by the His Majesty the King. In the absence of basic economic information and skilled manpower, the formulation of the third plan, like earlier ones was relatively simple. Major developments in regard to the consolidation of the planning process took place in the fourth plan period, when the Dzongkhags were involved in the development process.

Until 1981 to 1982 the responsibility for making plan allocations, rising internal resources, and negotiations, foreign assistance etc. lay with the Planning Commission. In 1981 to 1982, a large part of the financial responsibilities of the Commission was transferred to the Ministry of Finance. The Commission was however, invested with responsibilities for the formulation of development plans and allocations of investment resources.

A substantial infrastructure for development of the economy had been built up in the first four plans so that by the end of the fourth plan, the planning process had gained a good deal of comprehensiveness and sophistication. These two factors enabled the economy to develop the capacity of absorbing much higher volumes of investment resources for development in the later five-year plans.

The Seventh Five Year Plan was successfully completed in 1996/97. The Eighth Five Year Plan (1997 to 2002) laid emphasis towards attaining the objective of economic self-reliance with progressively higher rates of growth and greater distributional equity among various sectors and regions. At the same time, it will lay renewed emphasis on the preservation and promotion of traditional values and ideals. Privatization, initiated in the seventh plan will continue to be promoted. The ninth plan is on the offing, and will begin in 2002.

The plan, unlike the previous ones is a step further down at the grass roots in the process of decentralization. The plans will be geog based with the local people responsible for planning their program and implementing them.

Plan Outlays (Tab. 13.1)

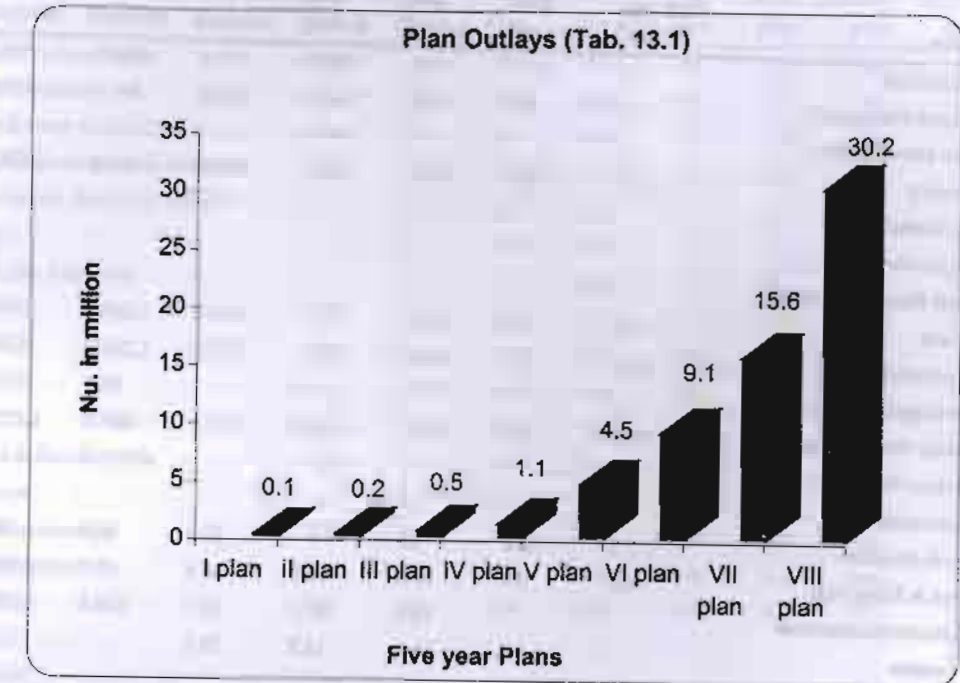


TABLE 16.6: MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS BY TRAFFIC DIVISION, BHUTAN, 2000

(numbers)

Division	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Thimphu	6	n.a	1	4	11	9	6	5	11	10	5	7	75
Paro	1	1	n.a	1	n.a	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	11
Chhaling	2	3	2	n.a	4	1	2	2	n.a	4	1	1	22
Thimsholing	6	5	9	6	10	6	5	1	5	4	2	9	68
Trongsa	n.a	2	1	n.a	2	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	5
Samdrupjung	2	2	n.a	1	n.a	n.a	1	1	2	n.a	2	2	13
Yangbajung	n.a	1	2	n.a	1	n.a	n.a	2	2	n.a	n.a	n.a	8
Punakha	2	n.a	n.a	2	2	2	3	n.a	1	1	1	3	17
Samdrup Jongkhar	2	4	3	1	1	n.a	2	3	2	3	1	n.a	22
Dhangadhang	1	n.a	3	2	2	3	2	3	1	n.a	n.a	3	20
Other	n.a	n.a	2	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	1	1	1	n.a	5
Total	22	18	23	17	33	23	22	18	26	24	14	26	266

Source: Crime & Operations, Royal Bhutan Police (HQ), Thimphu

List of CSO's Publication

Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan	<i>Annually</i>
National Accounts Statistics	<i>Annually</i>
Bhutan at a Glance	<i>Annually</i>
Socio Economic Indicators	<i>Monthly</i>
Consumer Price Index (CPI)	<i>Quarterly for Thimphu Food Index & Half yearly For the National</i>
National Census of Manufacturing Industries	<i>Every three years</i>
Household Income & Expenditure Survey	<i>Adhoc</i>

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